

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 CCO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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P R 162220Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, TS

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH HABIB
BOURGUIBA, JR.

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY MET OCT 13 WITH HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR. AT LATTER'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, SISCO FOR NEA AND BLAKE FOR AF/N ALSO PRESENT. BOURGUIBA ON BEHALF OF FATHER, WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE AND CABLE CONTACT, URGED USG TO AVOID ANY FURTHER COMMITMENT TO OR INVOLVEMENT WITH ISRAEL IN PRESENT CRISIS AND TO USE ITS LEVERAGE ON ISRAELIS TO IMPOSE PEACE AND ON USSR TO FORCE LATTER TO IMPOSE PEACE ON ARABS. SECRETARY ASSURED BOURGUIBA USG HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS APPROACH TO RENEWED MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT BUT CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO RE-SUPPLY BY SOVIETS OF ARAB LOSSES. SECRETARY INDICATED US HAS PROVIDED SOME ARMS TO ISRAEL BUT HAS DELIBERATELY AVOIDED DOING SO ON SUBSTANTIAL SCALE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CALL ON SECRETARY OCT 13 HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR., WHO IN US IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER MATTERS, EXPRESSED GOT CONCERN AND THAT OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA PERSONALLY OVER PRESENT CRISIS IN MIDDLE EAST. BOURGUIBA STATED HE HAD SUGGESTED TO HIS FATHER THAT LATTER SEND TELEGRAM TO SADAT AND ASSAD WHICH WOULD URGE THEM TO HAVE THEIR TROOPS EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE IN RECOVERED TERRITORIES (I.E., NOT HARASS CIVILIANS OR PRIVATE PROPERTY) AND TO

ISSUE STATEMENT THAT ARAB FORCES WILL ONLY GO AS FAR AS 1947 UN PARTITION LINE. BOURGUIBA INDICATED HIS FATHER HAD ACCEPTED SUGGESTION BUT WAS UNCERTAIN REACTION BY SADAT AND ASSAD BOURGUIBA THEN REFERRED TO REPORTS OF PHANTOMS PILOTED BY AMERICANS HAVING BEEN SHOT DOWN BY ARABS OVER WAR ZONE. SECRETARY CHARACTERIZED SUCH REPORTS AS "OUTRAGEOUS LIES", DECLARING THAT NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN MILITARY PLANES OR PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN PRESENT CONFLICT. IN RESPONSE BOURGUIBA'S QUERY AS TO WHETHER PHANTOMS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PILOTED BY AMERICAN CIVILIANS, SECRETARY STATED SUCH ACTION ON PART OF PRIVATE

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AMERICANS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH US POLICY.
BOURGUIBA STRONGLY URGED US POLICY IN THIS REGARD BE
EXPRESSED PUBLICLY.

3. BOURGUIBA THEN ASKED ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA THAT USG AVOID ANY FURTHER COMMITMENT TO OR INVOLVEMENT WITH ISRAEL IN CURRENT CONFLICT. HE DESCRIBED REQUEST AS "PATHETIC APPEAL". ALSO ASKED USG EXERT ITS

LEVERAGE ON ISRAELIS TO IMPOSE PEACE AND EXERT LEVERAGE ON SOVIETS TO LEAN ON ARABS IN INTEREST OF PEACE. SECRETARY STATED USG HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS APPROACH TO RENEWED MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. IT HAD MADE NO ASSESSMENT OF BLAME IN UN AND HE HAD NOT DISTRIBUTED BLAME IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 12. HOWEVER, IF SOVIETS SEND IN 105 PLANES EVERY THREE DAYS TO RESUPPLY ARABS, USG CANNOT ALLOW ISRAEL "TO BE STRANGLERED". US MUST PROVIDE SOME ARMS TO ISRAEL BUT IT HAS AVOIDED DOING SO ON SUBSTANTIAL SCALE.

4. BOURGUIBA ASKED WHY US TOOK INITIATIVE IN CALLING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DID NOT LEAVE INITIATIVE TO ISRAEL. SECRETARY POINTED OUT US IS PERMANENT MEMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL. US BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT TO START PROCESS OF DEBATE ON PROBLEM "OTHERWISE UN WOULD BE A JOKE". SECRETARY THEN TOLD BOURGUIBA US CANNOT BE ASKED TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO SEEK EQUITABLE SOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST WHILE ITS MOTIVES ARE BEING VILIFIED BY ARABS. BOURGUIBA STATED SCALI'S STATEMENT IN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING HAD MADE VERY BAD IMPRESSION ON ARABS. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT USG RESENTED BEING MISINTERPRETED, NOTING THAT US DID NOT RPT NOT PUT FORWARD RESOLUTION FOR SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BUT AN IDEA. SECRETARY RECALLED THAT WHEN SECURITY COUNCIL MET EXPECTATION OF ALL MILITARY EXPERTS WAS THAT ISRAELIS WOULD OVERCOME

ARAB FORCES AND CROSS 1967 CEASE FIRE LINES. IN SUCH EVENTUALITY WITHIN FOUR DAYS WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 LINE

MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE BAD IDEA. CLEARLY, MILITARY SITUATION HAD NOT EVOLVED IN WAY MILITARY EXPERTS HAD ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. BOURGUIBA COMMENTED THAT US POSITION
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SHOULD BE STATED MORE CLEARLY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC, INCLUDING THAT IN ARAB WORLD.

5. TURNING TO USSR, BOURGUIBA STATED THAT SOVIET UNION HAS NO INTEREST IN PERMANENT, PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST TENSION FROM WHICH IT BENEFITS. SECRETARY AGREED. BOURGUIBA ADDED THAT INTEREST OF ISRAEL IS TO MAINTAIN ITS IMAGE AS UNDERDOG AND DECLARED THAT SOONER PEACE COMES IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ALL. BOURGUIBA REITERATED TRADITIONAL POSITION OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA IN NOTING THAT ONLY SOLUTION TO PALESTINE WAS SEMITIC FEDERATION OF ARABS AND JEWS.

6. IN CONCLUDING MEETING SECRETARY ASSURED BOURGUIBA HE WOULD TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY VIEWS BOURGUIBA HAD EX-

PRESSED ON BEHALF OF HIS FATHER. SECRETARY STATED HE
FULLY UNDERSTOOD BOURGUIBA HAD SPOKEN FRANKLY BUT AS A
FRIEND. SECRETARY ASKED BOURGUIBA PASS WORD TO OTHER
ARAB GOVERNMENTS THAT USG WOULD DO ITS BEST IN PRESENT
VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES BUT THAT THEY COULD NOT

EXPECT US TO DO SO WHILE ITS MOTIVES WERE BEING
QUESTIONED AND IT WAS BEING SUBJECTED TO VILIFICATION. KISSINGER

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